Numb. 255

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

——— *Nec te tua plurima, Pantheu,*
Labentem Pietas nec Apollinis Infula texit. Virg.

From *Thurſday November* 23. to *Saturday November* 25. 1710.

From my own Apartment, November 24.

To the Cenſor of Great Britain.

SIR,

'I AM at preſent under very great Difficulties, which it is not in the Power of any one, beſides your ſelf, to redreſs. Whether or no you ſhall think it a proper Caſe to come before your *Court of Honour*, I cannot tell; but thus it is: I am Chaplain to an honourable Family, very regular at the Hours of Devotion, and I hope of an unblameable Life; but for not offering to riſe at Second Courſe, I found my Patron and his Lady very ſullen and out of Humour, though at firſt I did not know the Reaſon of it. At length, when I happened to help my ſelf to a Jelly, the Lady of the Houſe, otherwiſe a devout Woman, told me, That it did not become a Man of my Cloth to delight in ſuch frivolous Food: But as I ſtill continued to ſit out the laſt Courſe, I was Yeſterday informed by the Butler, that his Lordſhip had no further Occaſion for my Service. All which is humbly ſubmitted to your Conſideration, by,

SIR,

Your moſt Humble Servant, &c.

The Caſe of this Gentleman deſerves Pity, eſpecially if he loves Sweetmeats, to which, if I may gueſs by his Letter, he is no Enemy. In the mean Time, I have often wondered at the Indecency of diſcarding the holieſt Man from the Table as ſoon as the moſt delicious Parts of the Entertainment are ſerved up, and could never conceive a Reaſon for ſo abſurd a Cuſtom. Is it becauſe a liquoriſh Palate, or a ſweet Tooth (as they call it) is not conſiſtent with the Sanctity of his Character? This is but a trifling Pretence. No man of the moſt rigid Virtue gives Offence by any Exceſſes in Plumb-Pudding or Plumb-Porridge, and that, becauſe they are the firſt Parts of the Dinner. Is there any Thing that tends to Incitation in Sweetmeats more than in ordinary Diſhes? Certainly not. Sugar-Plumbs are a very innocent Diet, and Conſerves of a much colder Nature than your common Pickles. I have ſometimes thought, that the Ceremony of the Chaplain's flying away from the Deſſert was Typical and Figurative, to mark out to the Company how they ought to retire from all the luſcious Baits of Temptation, and deny their Appetites the Gratifications that are moſt pleaſing to them; or at leaſt to ſignifie, that we ought to ſtint our ſelves in our moſt lawful Satisfactions, and not make our Pleaſure, but our Support, the End of Eating: But moſt certainly, if ſuch a Leſſon of Temperance had been neceſſary at a Table, our Clergy would have recommended it to all the Lay-Maſters of Families, and not have diſturbed other Men's Tables with ſuch unſeaſonable Examples of Abſtinence. The Original therefore of this barbarous Cuſtom, I take to have been meerly accidental. The Chaplain retired out of pure Complaiſance to make Room for the Removal of the Diſhes, or poſſibly for the Ranging of the Deſſert. This by Degrees grew into a Duty, till at length, as the Faſhion improved, the good Man found himſelf cut off from the Third Part of the Entertainment; and if the Arrogance of the Patron goes on, it is not impoſſible but, in the next Generation, he may ſee himſelf reduced to the Tithe, or Tenth Diſh of the Table; a ſufficient Caution not to part with any Privilege we are once poſſeſſed of. It was uſual for the Prieſt in old Times to feaſt upon the Sacrifice, nay the Honey-Cake, while the hungry Laity looked upon him with great Devotion, or as the late Lord *Rocheſter* deſcribes it in a very lively Manner;

And while the Prieſt did eat, the People ſtared.

At preſent the Cuſtom is inverted; the Laity feaſt, while the Prieſt ſtands by as an humble Spectator. This neceſſarily puts the good Man upon making great Ravages on all the Diſhes that ſtand near him, and diſtinguiſhing himſelf by Voraciouſneſs of Appetite, as knowing that his Time is ſhort. I would fain ask theſe ſtiff-neck'd Patrons, Whether they would not take it ill of a Chaplain that, in his Grace after Meat, ſhould return Thanks for the whole Entertainment, with an Exception to the Deſſert? And yet I cannot but think that in ſuch a Proceeding he would but deal with 'em as they deſerved. What would a Roman Catholick Prieſt think, who is always helped firſt, and placed next the Ladies, ſhould he ſee a Clergyman giving his Company the Slip at the firſt Appearance of the Tarts or Sweetmeats? Would not he believe that he had the ſame Antipathy to a Candid Orange, or a Piece of Puff-Paſt, as ſome have to a *Cheſhire* Cheeſe, or a Breaſt of Mutton? Yet to ſo ridiculous a Height is this fooliſh Cuſtom grown, that even the *Chriſtmas* Pye, which in its very Nature is a kind of conſecrated Cate, and a Badge of Diſtinction, is often forbidden to the Druid of the Family. Strange! that a Sirloin of Beef, whether boiled or roaſted, when entire, is expoſed to his utmoſt Depredations and Inciſions; but if minced into ſmall Pieces, and toſſed up with Plumbs and Sugar, changes its

its Property; and, forsooth, is Meat for his Master.

In this Case I know not which to censure, the Patron or the Chaplain, the Insolence of Power, or the Abjectness of Dependance. For my own Part, I have often blushed to see a Gentleman, whom I knew to have much more Wit and Learning than my self, and who was bred up with me at the University upon the same Foot of a liberal Education, treated in such an ignominious Manner, and sunk beneath those of his own Rank, by reason of that Character which ought to bring him Honour. This deters Men of generous Minds from placing themselves in such a Station of Life, and by that Means frequently excludes Persons of Quality from the improving and agreeable Conversation of a learned and obsequious Friend.

Mr. *Oldham* lets us know, That he was affrighted from the Thought of such an Employment, by the scandalous sort of Treatment which often accompanies it.

Some think themselves exalted to the Sky,
If they light in some Noble Family:
Diet, an Horse, and Thirty Pounds a Year,
Besides th' Advantage of his Lordship's Ear.
The Credit of the Business, and the State,
Are Things that in a Youngster's Sense sound great.
Little the unexperienc'd Wretch does know,
What Slavery he oft must undergo:
Who tho' in Silken Scarf, and Cassock dreft,
Wears but a gayer Livery at best.
When Dinner calls, the Implement must wait,
With holy Words to consecrate the Meat.
But hold it for a Favour seldom known,
If he be deign'd the Honour to sit down.
Soon as the Tarts appear, Sir Crape *withdraw,*
Those Dainties are not for a Spiritual Maw.
Observe your Distance, and be sure to stand
Hard by the Cistern with your Cap in Hand:
There for Diversion you may pick your Teeth,
Till the kind Voider comes for your Relief.
Let others who such Meannesses can brook,
Strike Countenance to ev'ry great Man's Look;
I rate my Freedom higher.

This Author's Raillery is the Raillery of a Friend, and does not turn the Sacred Order into Ridicule, but is a just Censure on such Persons as take Advantage from the Necessities of a Man of Merit, to impose on him Hardships that are by no Means suitable to the Dignity of his Profession.

The last Paper having been worked off in different Presses, there are some Errata *in one Set of them, which the Reader is desired to correct: Col.* 1. *Line* 46. *for* in the Latitude of 13, *read* in the Latitude of 73. *Col.* 2. *L.* 49. *for* I, *read* he; *Col.* 3. *Line* 52. *for* teur, *read* tuer.

Advertisements.

The THIRD Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; on a large Letter in Octavo, being almost finish'd; such as please to subscribe for it on a Royal Paper, to keep up their Sets, are desired to send their Names to Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, or John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where the First and Second Volumes are to be deliver'd.

ALL Sorts of fine Silks and Mercery Goods for Blank Lottery Tickets, at 7 l. a Ticket, and sold as cheap as for Specie, at the Eagle and Child on Ludgate-Hill.

AT the GREAT WHEAT-SHEAF painted upon a Copper Plate, near the Bell-Savage Inn upon Ludgate-Hill, is sold all Sorts of rich Foreign Silks, with Gold and Silver Brocades. Likewise Plain and Flower'd Velvets for Gowns and Petticoats, and Coach Linings; with all Sorts of Silk Morning-Gowns, for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Person shall give for them, and the abovesaid Goods as cheap as for Specie.

Morning-Gowns for Men and Women, of all Sorts of rich Brocaded Silks, Japann'd Sattins, and great Variety of other rich Silks, Stuffs and Callicoes, being a fresh Parcel of choice Goods, of Samuel Edwards and Richard Hockett, Mercers, are to be sold at very low Rates, at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-against the Horse at Charing-Cross; the Price being set on each Gown.

TWO Hundred and Fifty Pounds to be paid on the Baptizing a Child, being a new Proposal by the Profitable Society, which, by only paying Two Shillings and Sixpence for a Policy, and Two and Sixpence towards each Claim, entitles you to the Sum above-mentioned. There is also a 2d Society, where paying only One Shilling Contribution, you receive One Hundred Pounds. Proposals at large may be had gratis at the Wheat-Sheaf over against Tom's Coffee-house in Russel-street, Covent-Garden.

JOhn Clark, Writing-Master, is removed from Wood-street to the Hand and Pen in Warwick-lane, by whom any Person may be taught Merchants-Accompts, or the true Italian Method of Book-Keeping, as now approved of by the chief Accomptants and Traders in Europe. Such whose Business will not permit them to come in the Day-Time, may be taught by him every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evening, from 6 to 8 a Clock, at his House; where also young Gentlemen are boarded.

*** There will be shortly published, An Essay towards a Practical English Grammar, by James Greenwood: Wherein is contained whatever Dr. Wallis has wrote on this Subject; with large Additions and Improvements. Dr. Hicks's Saxon Grammar has likewise upon every Occasion been consulted. The Whole is so ordered, that the meanest Capacity may attain not only to a tolerable Knowledge of the English Tongue, but of Grammar in general. Particular Care has been taken to render this Book useful and agreeable to the Fair Sex.

AT Mrs. Mottley's India House at the Two Green Canisters on the Pavement in St. Martin's-lane near Charing-cross, all Sorts of Indian Goods, Laquer'd Ware, China, Fans, Screens, Pictures, &c. with Hollands, Muslins, Cambricks, fine embroider'd and plain short Aprons, and divers other Things, to be disposed of for Blank Lottery Tickets, at 7 l. each, and the Goods as cheap as for Specie.

NEW Barcelona Wine, as neat and as good as any that has been imported this Year, being a small Parcel newly landed, to be sold by the Cask and by the Gallon, at 5 s. per Gallon, no less Quantity than a Gallon, in Abchurch-lane, in a Cellar at the Sign of the Dial over against Pontack's. Attendance will be given every Day from Eight in the Morning till Twelve, and from Two till Five.

THE Perpetual Insurance Office upon Marriage will be opened on Monday next at Nine in the Morning, at the Sign of the City of Bristol in St. Katherine's near the Tower. There will be Two Societies, one of 500 l. for a Crown, the other of 250 l. for half a Crown, if full. The first Hundred of each Society to continue single 2 Months, the 2d 3, the 3d 4, the 4th 5, and so on. Note, All the Subscribers that enter into the 2 Months, shall be obliged to enter as many into the 5 Months. And those that enter into the 3 Months, shall be obliged to enter as many into the 4 Months.

MRs. Symmons's Sale of Goods, which is still to be seen at the Naked-Boy and Coat in Henrietta-street, Covent-Garden, not being quite full, the Drawing is deferred to the 15th of December, and shall then be performed to the Satisfaction of all the Adventurers. Tickets are to be had at the Place above-mentioned; Mr. Lillie's the Corner of Beauford-Buildings, and all the Places mentioned in the Proposals.

I Anthony James, Shoemaker, in Shoemaker's-Row, Duke's-Place, near the Bakers Arms, London, was afflicted with a violent Fit of the Cholick and Stone; but by the Blessing of God, and the Preparations of Mr. Moore, Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar in Abchurch-lane, London, I have received a perfect Cure of my Cholick, and have had brought away an incredible Number of small Stones and Gravel, with one large Stone; and in Gratuity to the said Mr. Moore, (altho' I paid him for his Medicines) I do acknowledge to the World the Truth of this wonderful Cure. Anthony James.

SAmuel Maynard, living in Lyde's-Court near St. Giles's Church, having had the Rheumatism and Sciatica for some Time, which hinder'd me from following my Business: but at last, to my great Satisfaction, I happily heard of Mr. Moore Apothecary, at the Pestle and Mortar in Abchurch-lane, London; and by taking his Advice and Medicines, I am now so recover'd, that I am capable of performing my Business as formerly. Witness my Hand, Febr. 3. 1710. Samuel Maynard.

THE Royal Beautifier, or the greatest Cosmetick in the World, being the most incomparable Thing in Nature for preserving and restoring a good Complection. It even to a Miracle fortifies the Skin against Wind and Sun, and makes such as are pale and wan look fresh and lively, and have a charming Countenance. It certainly takes away Freckles, Spots, Pimples, Scurf, Morphew, and Sun-burnings, and miraculously makes the Complection plump, fresh, smooth, and delicately fair, even to Admiration; it having met with great Applause amongst Persons of Quality and others, so that Persons daily resort from all Parts of the Town to fetch it. To prevent Counterfeits, it is only sold at Lemery's-Head at Charing-Cross, at 2 s. 6 d. per Pot, with Directions at large.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertisements are taken in.